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[Review of] Chronology of American Popular Music, 1900-2000

Robert A. Aken

University of Kentucky, robaken@uky.edu

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Hoffman, Frank. **Chronology of American popular music, 1900-2000**. Routledge, 2007. 544p bibl index afp ISBN [9780415977159](#), \$175.00

Hoffman (library science, Sam Houston State; editor of *Encyclopedia of Recorded Sound*, [CH, Mar'05, 42-3779](#), and other popular music works) attempts to transcend trivia in this chronology, covering events that "made an impact on the evolution of popular music." Entries, arranged by date within each year, range from one sentence to six pages (MTV, 8-1-1981). Coverage focuses on the rock era, with half the book covering 1965-2000. British artists who had a major US impact are included. Short entries often assume readers are knowledgeable about a subject (e.g., the August 1916 entry refers to an undefined "universal-cut disc"). Longer entries provide substantial information and analysis, but the details can subvert the chronological arrangement; e.g., entries that introduce a band's first significant accomplishment (Jethro Tull's 6-3-1972 entry concerning "Thick as a Brick") also provide a career overview, thereby discussing later events out of sequence (Tull's controversial 1987 Grammy). The detailed index increases the work's usefulness. Other works focus on shorter time periods, e.g., Norm Nite's *Rock on Almanac* ([CH, Apr'90, 27-4276](#)), or classical music, e.g., L. Kuhn's *Music since 1900* (6th ed., [CH, May'02, 39-4917](#)). For libraries that have need of a chronology. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Lower-level undergraduates and general readers.

--R. A. Aken, *University of Kentucky*

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Hoffmann, Frank

Encyclopedia of recorded sound

Choice March 2005 42:42-3779; doi:10.5860/CHOICE.42-3779

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Kuhn, Laurae

Music since 1900

Choice May 2002 39:39-4917; doi:10.5860/CHOICE.39-4917

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REFERENCE - General

Nite, Norm N

Rock On almanac: the first four decades of rock 'n' roll: a chronology

Choice April 1990 27:27-4276; doi:10.5860/CHOICE.27-4276

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